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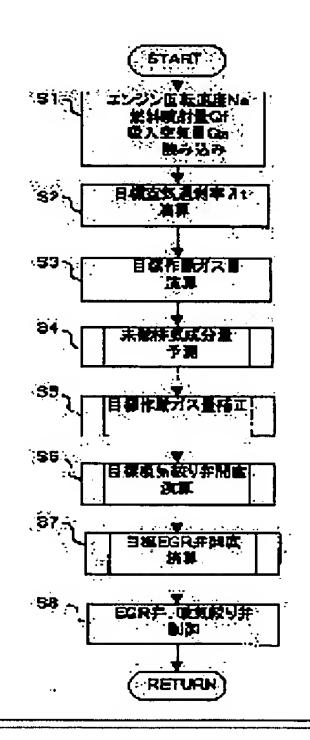
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(54) CONTROL DEVICE FOR INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINE

(57)Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To control an intake throttle valve and an EGR valve while ensuring combustion stability.

SOLUTION: A target air excess rate λt depending on an engine operating condition is calculated, and a target working medium amount is calculated based on the calculated target air excess rate λt (S1 to S3). An unburned exhaust component amount is predicted (S4), and when the unburned exhaust component amount exceeds a predetermined value, the calculated target working medium amount is corrected to be reduced (S5). Then, the intake throttle valve and the EGR valve are controlled so as to be the target working medium amount after correction (S6 to **S8**).



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CLAIMS

[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1] The inhalation air content which is installed in an engine's inhalation-of-air path, and is inhaled by the engine A controllable inhalation-of-air throttle valve, The amount of EGR(s) which is installed in the EGR path which opens the downstream inhalation-of-air path and flueway of this inhalation-of-air throttle valve for free passage, and is inhaled by the engine A controllable EGR valve, The control unit of the internal combustion engine characterized by having an amount setting-out means of target working medium to set up the amount of target working medium of a combustion chamber based on an engine's operational status, and the amount control means of working medium which controls said inhalation-of-air throttle valve and an EGR valve so that an engine's amount of working medium turns into said amount of target working medium.

[Claim 2] Said amount control means of working medium is the control unit of the internal combustion engine according to claim 1 which has an amount setting-out means of target EGR(s) to set up the amount of target EGR(s) based on a target-intake-air-flow setting-out means to set up target intake air flow based on an engine's operational status, and said amount of target working medium and target intake air flow, and is characterized by controlling said inhalation-of-air throttle valve and an EGR valve based on the target intake air flow and the amount of target EGR(s) which were set up.

[Claim 3] It is the control unit of the internal combustion engine according to claim 1 or 2 which has a flame-failure judging means to judge a flame failure, and the amount amendment means of working medium which carries out reduction amendment of said amount of target working medium when a flame failure is judged, and is characterized by said amount control means of working medium controlling said inhalation-of-air throttle valve and an EGR valve so that an engine's amount of working medium turns into said amount of target working medium by which reduction amendment was carried out.

[Claim 4] Said flame-failure judging means is the control unit of the internal combustion engine according to claim 3 characterized by judging with a flame failure when the amount of unburnt exhaust air components which detected or presumed, and detected or presumed the amount of unburnt exhaust air components discharged by the engine exceeds the specified quantity.

[Claim 5] The control unit of the internal combustion engine according to claim 4 characterized by presuming said amount of unburnt exhaust air components based on at least one of an inhalation air content, fuel oil consumption, and engine circulating water temperatures.

[Claim 6] The control unit of the internal combustion engine of any one publication of claim 1 to claim 5 characterized by making the amount of working medium of a combustion chamber increase with excess-air-factor regularity by enlarging the opening of said inhalation-of-air throttle valve and an EGR valve.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[Detailed Description of the Invention] [0001]

[Field of the Invention] Especially this invention relates to the control technique of an inhalation-of-air throttle valve and an EGR valve about an internal combustion engine's control unit. [0002]

[Description of the Prior Art] There are some which were indicated by JP,10-68315,A as a technique which controls simultaneously an engine's inhalation-of-air throttle valve and EGR valve.
[0003]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention] By the way, the amount of working medium of a combustion chamber (total of an inhalation air content and the amount of EGR(s)) influences the ignitionability of a fuel. When compression edge temperature becomes high, the ignitionability of a fuel improves (continuous line) and the amount of working medium decreases so that there are many amounts of working medium of a combustion chamber in the case of the same excess air factor as shown in ******* and drawing 14, it has the inclination for compression edge temperature to fall and for ignitionability to get worse (broken line). [0004] Therefore, in order to secure good ignitionability, it is necessary to make working medium of a combustion chamber into a proper amount. However, since the above-mentioned conventional thing is not taking into consideration change of the amount of working medium of the combustion chamber produced by opening modification of an inhalation-of-air throttle valve and an EGR valve, the amount of working medium may become less than the amount according to operational status, and ignitionability may get worse.

[0005] This invention is made in view of the above problems, and it aims at offering the control unit of the internal combustion engine which can control an inhalation-of-air throttle valve and an EGR valve, securing combustion stability by taking into consideration change of the amount of working medium.

[0006]

[Means for Solving the Problem] The inhalation air content which invention concerning claim 1 is installed in an engine's inhalation-of-air path, and is inhaled by the engine Therefore, a controllable inhalation-of-air throttle valve, The amount of EGR(s) which is installed in the EGR path which opens the downstream inhalation-of-air path and flueway of this inhalation-of-air throttle valve for free passage, and is inhaled by the engine A controllable EGR valve, It is characterized by having an amount setting-out means of target working medium to set up the amount of target working medium of a combustion chamber based on an engine's operational status, and the amount control means of working medium which controls said inhalation-of-air throttle valve and an EGR valve so that an engine's amount of working medium turns into said amount of target working medium.

[0007] Said amount control means of working medium is equipped with a target-intake-air-flow setting-out means to set up target intake air flow based on an engine's operational status, and an amount setting-out means of target EGR(s) to set up the amount of target EGR(s) based on said amount of target working medium and target intake air flow, and invention concerning claim 2 is characterized by controlling said inhalation-of-air throttle valve and an EGR valve based on the target intake air flow and the amount of target EGR(s) which were set up.

[0008] Invention concerning claim 3 is equipped with a flame-failure judging means to judge a flame failure, and the amount amendment means of working medium which carries out reduction amendment of said amount of target working medium when a flame failure is judged, and said amount control means of working medium is characterized by controlling said inhalation-of-air throttle valve and an EGR valve so that an engine's amount of working medium turns into said amount of target working medium by which

reduction amendment was carried out.

[0009] It is characterized by invention concerning claim 4 judging said flame-failure judging means to be a flame failure, when the amount of unburnt exhaust air components which detected or presumed, and detected or presumed the amount of unburnt exhaust air components discharged by the engine exceeds the specified quantity. Invention concerning claim 5 is characterized by presuming said amount of unburnt exhaust air components based on at least one of an inhalation air content, fuel oil consumption, and engine circulating water temperatures.

[0010] Invention concerning claim 6 is characterized by making the amount of working medium increase with excess-air-factor regularity by enlarging the opening of said inhalation-of-air throttle valve and an EGR valve.

[0011]

[Effect of the Invention] Since an inhalation-of-air throttle valve and an EGR valve are controlled to set up the amount of target working medium of a combustion chamber according to an engine's operational status, and to become this amount of target working medium according to invention concerning claim 1, a proper quantity of working medium can be secured and the ignitionability of a fuel can be maintained good. [0012] In addition, if said amount of target working medium is increased and it sets up, compression edge temperature can be raised to the bottom of the same excess air factor, and the ignitionability of a fuel can be improved. According to invention concerning claim 2, the amount of target EGR(s) is set up based on the target intake air flow set up according to an engine's operational status, and said amount of target working medium. Since an inhalation-of-air throttle valve and an EGR valve are controlled based on the target intake air flow and the amount of target EGR(s) which were set up While securing the amount of working medium and raising the ignitionability of a fuel, it can also be prevented that avoid that the ratio of the amount of inert gas (EGR) increases too much among the amounts of working medium, and the rate of combustion falls.

[0013] Thereby, an inhalation-of-air throttle valve and GR valve are controllable, securing combustion stability (ignitionability and rate of combustion) good. Therefore, even if it is the case where set up an excess air factor small at the time of the cold machines immediately after start up etc., carry out temperature up of the exhaust-gas temperature (making it fall), and an exhaust air clarification catalyst is activated, an inhalation-of-air throttle valve and an EGR valve can be controlled, without causing aggravation of combustion instability or exhaust air emission.

[0014] Since according to invention concerning claim 3 reduction amendment of said whole amount of target working medium is carried out when a flame failure is judged According to invention concerning claim 4 which can prevent a sharp reduction of the amount of working medium, and can maintain ignitionability good, preventing the lowering of the high rate of combustion of a contribution to a flame failure, and raising flame-failure-proof nature Since it judges with a flame failure when the amount of unburnt exhaust air components detected or presumed, and a flame failure and correlation detected or presumed the strong amount of unburnt exhaust air components to be exceeds the predetermined value set up beforehand, a flame-failure judging is easy.

[0015] According to invention concerning claim 5, since the amount of unburnt exhaust air components, an inhalation air content and the amount of unburnt exhaust air components, and a circulating water temperature have a respectively fixed relation, the amount of unburnt exhaust air components can be easily presumed by detecting or measuring at least one of an inhalation air content, fuel injection timing, and circulating water temperatures.

[0016] According to invention concerning claim 6, the amount of working medium can be made to increase with excess-air-factor regularity by enlarging the opening of both an inhalation-of-air throttle valve and an EGR valve. That is, it is impossible for an excess air factor to increase and to make the amount of working medium increase with excess-air-factor regularity only by enlarging the opening of only an inhalation-of-air throttle valve, and only by enlarging only an EGR valve, since negative pressure decreases by the increment in the amount of EGR(s) and the inhalation air content relatively inhaled by the combustion chamber decreases, it is impossible to make the amount of working medium increase with excess-air-factor regularity.

[0017] Therefore, the amount of working medium can be made to increase with excess-air-factor regularity by enlarging the opening of an inhalation-of-air throttle valve so that a part for the inhalation air content which decreases by enlarging the opening of an EGR valve may be compensated.

[0018]

[Embodiment of the Invention] Hereafter, the operation gestalt of this invention is explained based on

drawing. <u>Drawing 1</u> is the system chart of a diesel power plant with a supercharger. As shown in drawing, the common rail fuel-injection system which uses as a component a common rail 2, a fuel injection valve 3, and the fuel pump that is not illustrated is prepared in the engine 1, and a high-pressure fuel is supplied to an engine 1.

[0019] It connects with the inhalation-of-air path 5, and compressor 4a of a supercharger 4 is driven and supplies a compressed air to an engine 1. It connects with the flueway 6, and turbine 4b of a supercharger 4 rotates with the exhaust air from an engine 1, and drives said compressor 4a. In addition, in this operation gestalt, the high supercharge effectiveness can be acquired by the large operating range by using the thing of a variable-capacity mold as a supercharger 4, extracting the adjustable nozzle prepared in the turbine 4b side in the low-speed area, raising a turbine efficiency, opening said adjustable nozzle in a high-speed region, and making turbine capacity expand.

[0020] The air flow meter 15 arranged in the upstream of compressor 4a of said supercharger 4 and the inhalation-of-air throttle valve 7 are formed in the inhalation-of-air path 5. Using a step motor, the inhalation-of-air throttle valve 7 is the thing of the electronics control type in which opening modification is possible, and controls the inhalation air content inhaled by the engine 1 according to the opening.

[0021] The exhaust emission control device 10 arranged in the downstream of the EGR path 8 which branches from between an engine 1 and turbine 4b of a supercharger, and is connected to the inhalation-of-air path 5, the EGR valve 9 infixed in this EGR path 8, and turbine 4b of said supercharger 4 is formed in the flueway 6. It is the thing of the electronics control type using a step motor, and said EGR valve 9 controls the amount of EGR(s) of the exhaust air which flows back to an inspired air flow path according to the opening, i.e., the amount inhaled by the engine 1.

[0022] Said exhaust emission control device 10 purifies the exhaust air discharged by the supported catalyst from an engine 1 by oxidation / reduction reaction. A control unit 20 performs opening control of said inhalation-of-air throttle valve 7 and the EGR valve 9 while it sets up fuel oil consumption Qf and fuel injection timing IT based on the detecting signal from the various sensors inputted and controls actuation of said fuel injection valve 3.

[0023] In addition, as said various sensors, there is air flow meter 15 grade which detects a sensor 14 and the inhalation air content Qa whenever [catalyst temperature / which detects whenever / catalyst temperature / of the engine revolution sensor 11 which detects an engine speed Ne, the accelerator opening sensor 12 which detects an accelerator opening, the coolant temperature sensor 13 which detects the engine-cooling-water temperature Tw, and said exhaust emission control device 10].

[0024] By the way, since said exhaust emission control device 10 cannot purify exhaust air, without being activated unless the catalyst (exhaust air clarification catalyst) becomes beyond predetermined temperature, it is necessary to carry out temperature up of whenever [catalyst temperature] at an early stage at the time of the cold machines immediately after engine start up etc. So, with this operation gestalt, immediately after engine start up, the temperature up of the temperature of a combustion chamber, as a result an exhaust-gas temperature is brought forward, and early activation of whenever [catalyst temperature] is in drawing by what (it is made to fall) an excess air factor lambda (namely, new air volume of the low temperature inhaled in a cylinder) is set up for smaller than the excess air factor set up at the time of the usual warming-up. [0025] Here, there is an approach to which the amount of EGR(s) is made to increase from the time of the usual warming-up by controlling the approach of decreasing the inhalation air content Qa, and the EGR valve 9 by controlling the inhalation-of-air throttle valve 7 as an approach (for it to be made to fall) of setting up an excess air factor lambda small. When an excess air factor lambda is made small only by the inhalation-of-air throttle valve 7, the amount of working medium of a combustion chamber (the amount of inhalation air content Qa+EGR) decreases rather than the amount according to operational status, and since compression edge temperature falls, it has the problem that the ignitionability of a fuel will get worse. [0026] On the other hand, although compression edge temperature also rises and ignitionability can be maintained since the amount of EGR(s) in which temperature rose by combustion increases if an excess air factor lambda is made small only by the EGR valve 9, the rate of the amount of EGR(s) which is inert gas increases rather than the amount according to operational status, and it has the problem that the rate of combustion will fall. Therefore, in order to carry out temperature up of the exhaust-gas temperature, maintaining combustion stability (effectively), while securing the amount of the working medium of a combustion chamber, it is necessary to make it comparatively (EGR rate) not become large too much as for the amount of EGR(s) in this working medium.

[0027] For this reason, although an exhaust-gas temperature is raised with this operation gestalt by reducing an excess air factor lambda immediately after engine start up, in order to compensate aggravation of the

ignitionability by reduction (namely, reduction of the amount of working medium) of the inhalation air content Qa accompanying decline in an excess air factor lambda, the amount of EGR(s) is made to increase and the amount of working medium is secured proper. He is trying to set up the amount of working medium (the amount of target working medium) which made the inhalation air content Qa and the amount of EGR(s) balance in that case, so that lowering of the rate of combustion by the increment in the amount of EGR(s) may be controlled.

[0028] Hereafter, control of the inhalation-of-air throttle valve 7 immediately after engine start up and the EGR valve 9 is explained. <u>Drawing 2</u> is a flow chart which shows the Maine control routine. Step 1 (it is described as S1 by a diagram.) In it being below the same, engine-speed Ne, fuel oil consumption Qf, and the inhalation air content Qa are read.

[0029] Here, an engine speed Ne and the inhalation air content Qa are detected by the 11 air flow meter engine-speed sensor 15, respectively, and fuel oil consumption Qf is set up according to operational status. At step 2, target excess-air-factor lambdat is computed with reference to a map as shown in <u>drawing 3</u> based on the engine speed Ne and fuel oil consumption Qf which were read.

[0030] Although said target excess-air-factor lambdat sets up the optimal value according to an engine operation condition at the time of the usual warming-up, here In carrying out temperature up of the exhaust-gas temperature like [at the time of the cold machine immediately after engine start up], it sets up a value smaller than the value set up in the same operational status as this target excess-air-factor lambdat at the time of the usual warming-up (consequently, an excess air factor lambda is made to fall at the time of a cold machine).

[0031] The amount of target working medium is computed by searching a table as shown in <u>drawing 4</u> with step 3 based on computed target excess-air-factor lambdat. This amount of target working medium computes the amount of working medium used as the EGR rate which can secure combustion stability (ignitionability and rate of combustion) good at the time of target excess-air-factor lambdat.

[0032] Here, the table for the amount calculation of target working medium (<u>drawing 4</u>) is explained with reference to <u>drawing 5</u>. As mentioned above, when reducing an excess air factor lambda by controlling only the EGR valve 9 (namely, the amount of EGR(s)), since the amount of EGR(s) is made to increase, although an inhalation air content decreases, there is little change of the amount of working medium (<u>drawing 5</u>: continuous line).

[0033] However, since a limitation is in the excess air factor (it can be made to fall) lambda which can be set up in control of only the EGR valve 9, it is necessary to also use together control of the inhalation-of-air throttle valve 7 to reduce an excess air factor lambda beyond this limitation. That is, it is necessary to reduce an excess air factor lambda by extracting the inhalation-of-air throttle valve 7, considering the EGR valve 9 as full admission (drawing 5: broken line). In this case, if an excess air factor lambda is mainly reduced, since the rate of EGR which is inert gas will increase control of the EGR valve 9, the rate of combustion becomes slow.

[0034] If an excess air factor lambda is reduced by controlling only the inhalation-of-air throttle valve 7 (namely, inhalation air content Qa), in order that the amount of working medium may decrease on the other hand, compression edge temperature falls and the ignitionability of a fuel gets worse (<u>drawing 5</u>: alternate long and short dash line). Thus, since it has the inclination for the rate of combustion to become slow when the inclination for ignitionability to get worse is shown when inhalation-of-air drawing is performed, in order to reduce an excess air factor lambda, and EGR is performed, In reducing an excess air factor lambda especially at the time of low temperature (that is, temperature up of the exhaust-gas temperature is carried out) the amount of EGR(s) (ratio) occupied to the amount of working medium, and working medium by making opening setting out of the inhalation-of-air throttle valve 7 and the EGR valve 9 balance -- proper -- securing -- combustion -- it is necessary to avoid an unstable condition

[0035] The table of <u>drawing 4</u> is set up in consideration of this point, and computes the optimal (the EGR rate was taken into consideration) amount of target working medium according to an excess air factor lambda. It returns to the flow chart of <u>drawing 2</u>, and the amount of unburnt exhaust air components is predicted at step 4. At step 5, reduction amendment of said amount of target working medium is performed based on the predicted amount of unburnt exhaust air components.

[0036] At step 6, a target inhalation-of-air throttle valve opening is computed based on the amount of target working medium after amendment. At step 7, whenever [target EGR valve-opening] is computed based on the amount of target working medium after amendment. At step 8, opening control of the inhalation-of-air throttle valve 7 and the EGR valve 9 is performed.

[0037] The opening of the inhalation-of-air throttle valve 7 is controlled to specifically become the target

inhalation-of-air throttle valve opening computed at step 6, and the opening of the EGR valve 9 is controlled to become whenever [target EGR valve-opening / which was computed at step 7]. It becomes possible to control the inhalation-of-air throttle valve 7 and the EGR valve 9, securing combustion stability, if it does in this way.

[0038] In addition, although the amount of target working medium is used as a value which represents with the above-mentioned flow chart the capacity which flows in a cylinder, it replaces with this target working medium, and you may make it use target volume effectiveness. In this case, based on the target volume effectiveness which computed and computed target volume effectiveness according to the engine operation condition, the inhalation-of-air throttle valve 7 and the EGR valve 9 will be controlled.

[0039] Next, the control performed at each step of said Maine control routine (<u>drawing 2</u>) is explained. <u>Drawing 6</u> is a flow chart which shows prediction data processing of the amount of unburnt exhaust air components performed at step 4 of said Maine control routine (<u>drawing 2</u>). At step 11, the inhalation air content Qa, fuel oil consumption Qf, fuel injection timing IT, and the engine-cooling-water temperature Tw are read.

[0040] At step 12, the amount of unburnt exhaust air components is predicted. Since it turns out that it has a relation as shown in <u>drawing 7</u> - <u>drawing 9</u> R> 9, respectively, specifically, the amount of unburnt exhaust air components, and an excess air factor lambda (** inhalation air content Qa / fuel oil consumption Qf), fuel injection timing IT (ATDC) and a circulating water temperature Tw predict the amount of unburnt exhaust air components by performing predetermined data processing based on these tables.

[0041] <u>Drawing 10</u> is a flow chart which shows the reduction amendment processing of the amount of target

working medium performed at step 5 of said Maine control routine (<u>drawing 2</u> R> 2). At step 21, the unburnt exhaust air component forecast computed at step 4 of <u>drawing 2</u> is detected. Step 22 compares the amount forecast of unburnt exhaust air components and predetermined value which were detected. [0042] When it results in a flame failure (or just before a flame failure), this predetermined value is set up as a value which shows the amount of unburnt components discharged from an engine, and is beforehand calculated by experiment etc. When said forecast is larger than a predetermined value, it judges with a flame failure, and progresses to step 23, and reduction amendment of the amount of target working medium computed at step 3 of <u>drawing 2</u> is carried out.

[0043] That is, since it is necessary to improve lowering of the rate of combustion of a combustion chamber when a flame failure is judged, it is necessary to decrease the amount of EGR(s). However, when only the amount of EGR(s) is decreased, shortly, the amount of working medium will decrease greatly and aggravation of the ignitionability of a fuel will be caused. Therefore, by carrying out reduction (as a whole) amendment of said amount of target working medium as which combustion stability was considered, suppressing aggravation of ignitionability to the minimum, the amount of EGR(s) which is inert gas is reduced, and lowering of the rate of combustion is improved.

[0044] Thereby, flame-failure-proof nature can be raised. When said forecast is below a predetermined value, amendment of the amount of target working medium is not performed, but this control is ended as it is. In addition, although it may be made to carry out specified quantity reduction of the amount of target working medium as the approach of reduction amendment of said amount of target working medium uniformly when said forecast is larger than a predetermined value, it may be made to make [many] the amount reduced, so that the difference of said forecast and predetermined value becomes large. If it does in this way, it will become controllable corresponding to flame-failure level.

[0045] <u>Drawing 11</u> is a flow chart which shows calculation of target inhalation-of-air throttle valve 7 opening performed at step 6 and step 7 of said Maine control routine (<u>drawing 2</u> R> 2), and EGR valve 9 opening. At step 31, the amount of target working medium (amendment back) computed at the fuel oil consumption Qf set up according to target excess-air-factor lambdat computed at step 2 of <u>drawing 2</u> and operational status and step 5 of <u>drawing 2</u> is read.

[0046] Target intake air flow Qt is computed at step 32. As shown in a bottom type, specifically, target intake air flow Qt is computed by carrying out the multiplication of theoretical air fuel ratio (14.6) and the fuel oil consumption Qf to target excess-air-factor lambdat. The amount of target EGR(s) is computed at the target-intake-air-flow Qt= target excess-air-factor lambdatx14.6x fuel-oil-consumption Qf step 33.

[0047] As shown in a bottom type, specifically, the amount of target EGR(s) is computed by subtracting said target intake air flow Qt from the amount of target working medium (amendment back). The amount of target EGR(s) = a target inhalation-of-air throttle valve opening is computed by searching a table as shown in drawing 1212 with the amount of target working medium-target-intake-air-flow Qt step 34 based on the target intake air flow and the amount of target EGR(s) which were computed.

[0048] Whenever [target EGR valve-opening] is computed by searching a table as shown in drawing 13 with step 35 based on the target intake air flow and the amount of target EGR(s) which were computed. As explained above, in the time of the low temperature immediately after start up, in **** an exhaust-gas temperature by setting up an excess air factor smaller than the time of the usual warming-up in the same operational status as target excess-air-factor lambdat with ** Early activation of an exhaust air clarification catalyst can be attained securing combustion stability, since opening setting out of the inhalation-of-air throttle valve 7 and the EGR valve 9 is performed in consideration of the balance of the inhalation air content Qa and the amount of EGR(s), securing the amount of working medium proper. [0049] in addition, without setting up the amount of target working medium, as mentioned above, after activation termination of an exhaust air clarification catalyst sets up target intake air flow Qt and a target EGR rate based on an engine operation condition, and you may make it control the inhalation-of-air throttle valve 7 and the EGR valve 9, respectively (namely, -- irrespective of the amount of target working medium) Moreover, although the inhalation-of-air throttle valve 7 and the EGR valve 9 are controlled by the abovementioned flow chart to become the amount of target working medium with which the inhalation air content Qa and the amount of EGR(s) balanced under target excess-air-factor lambdat, more amounts of working medium of a combustion chamber can also be set up, seting an excess air factor lambda constant. [0050] in this case, the inhalation-of-air throttle valve 7 set up based on the map shown in drawing 4 and the EGR valve 9 -- what is necessary is just to control to each opening in the direction which opens further the both sides of the inhalation-of-air throttle valve 7 and an EGR valve

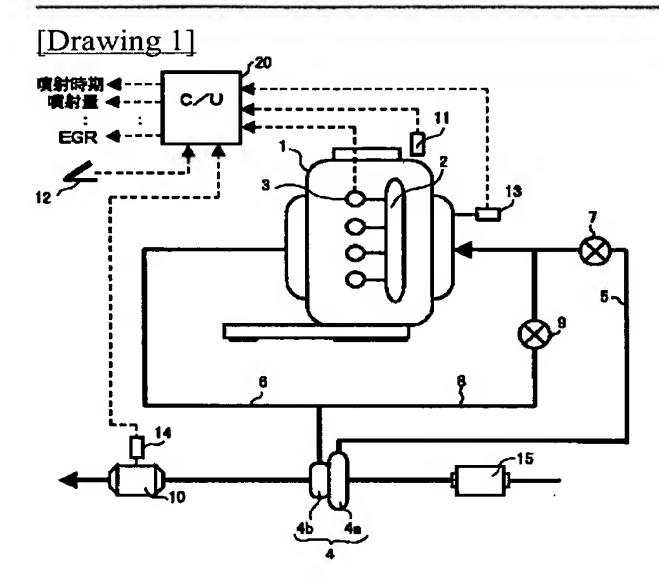
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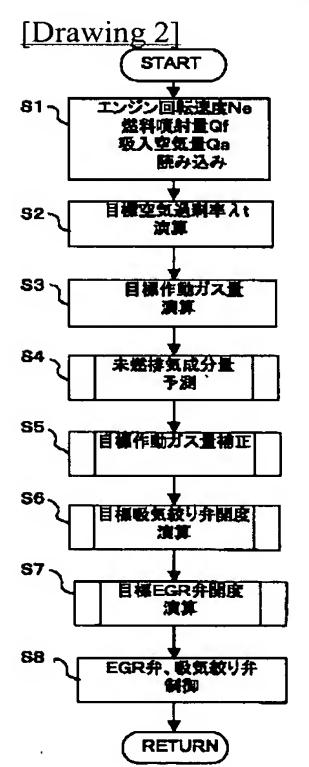
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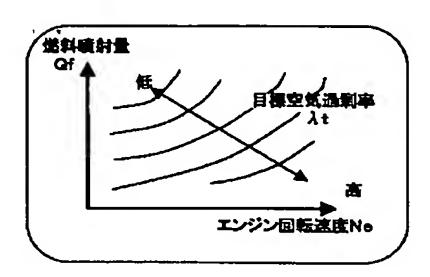
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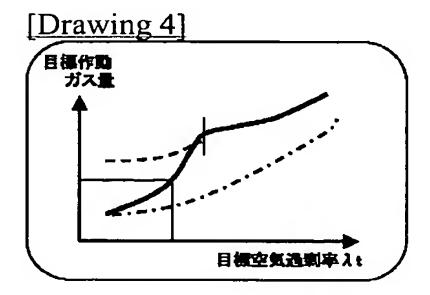
DRAWINGS

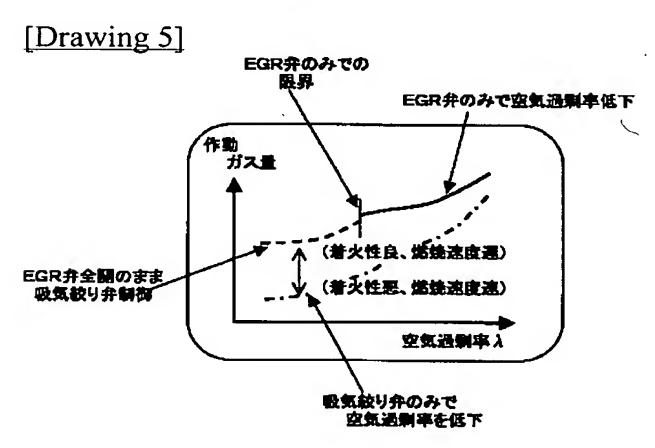


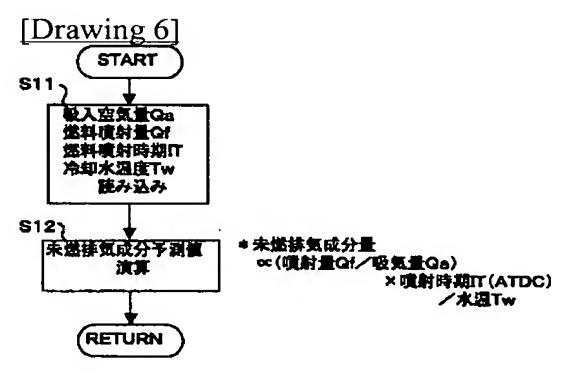


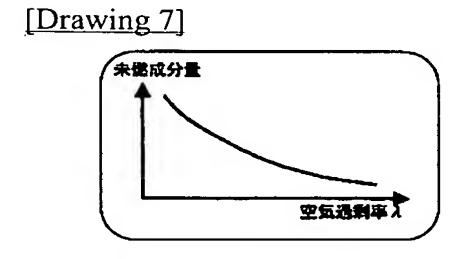
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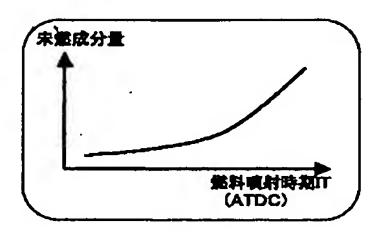


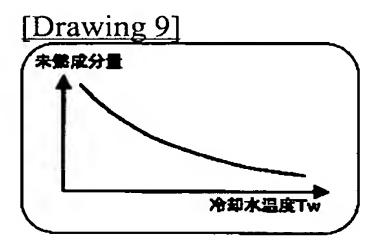


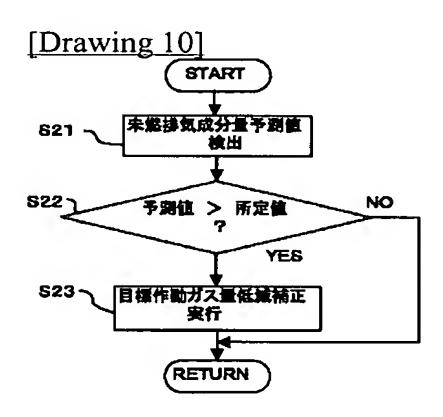




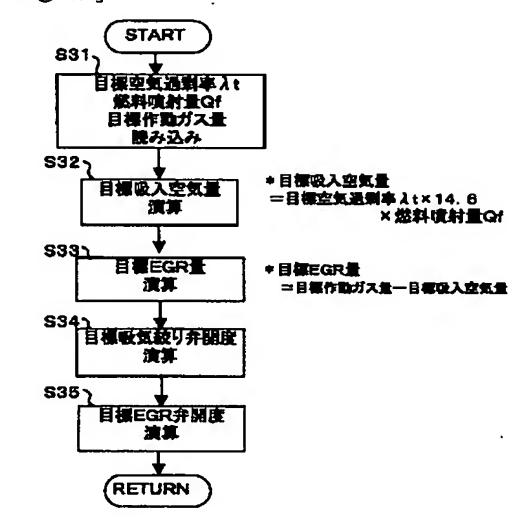
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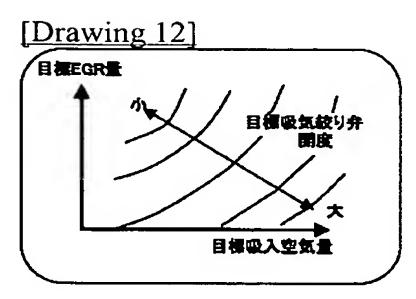




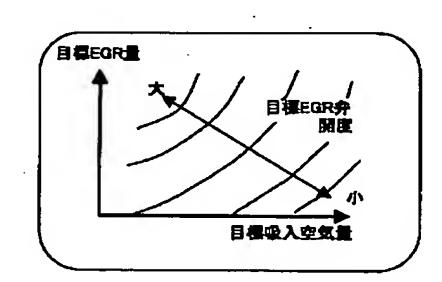


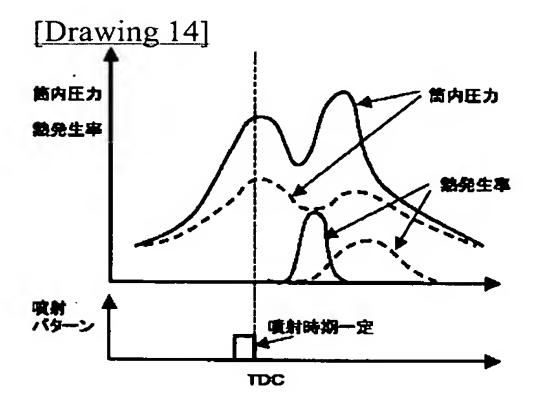
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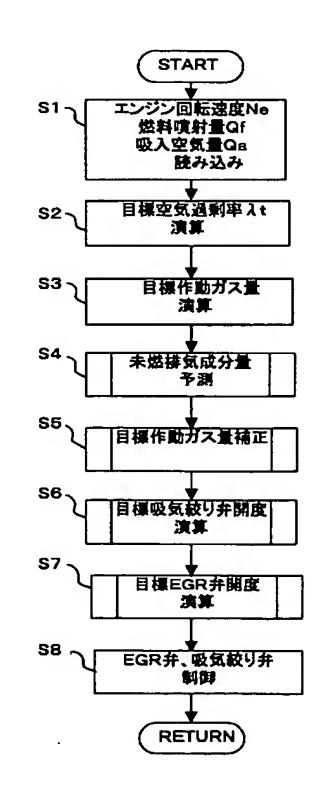
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(54) 【発明の名称】 内燃機関の制御装置

(57)【要約】

【課題】燃焼安定性を確保しつつ、吸気絞り弁及びEG R弁を制御する。

【解決手段】機関の運転状態に応じた目標空気過剰率 λ t を算出し、算出した目標空気過剰率 λ t に基づき目標作動ガス量を算出する(S1~S3)。未燃排気成分量を予測して(S4)、未燃排気成分量が所定値を超える場合は、算出した目標作動ガス量を低減補正する(S5)。そして、補正後の目標作動ガス量となるように吸気絞り弁及びEGR弁を制御する(S6~S8)。



【特許請求の範囲】

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【請求項1】機関の吸気通路に設置され、機関に吸入さ れる吸入空気量を制御可能な吸気絞り弁と、

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該吸気絞り弁の下流側吸気通路と排気通路とを連通する EGR通路に設置され、機関に吸入されるEGR量を制 御可能なEGR弁と、

機関の運転状態に基づいて燃焼室内の目標作動ガス量を 設定する目標作動ガス量設定手段と、

機関の作動ガス量が、前記目標作動ガス量となるように 前記吸気絞り弁及びEGR弁を制御する作動ガス量制御 手段と、

を備えることを特徴とする内燃機関の制御装置。

【請求項2】前記作動ガス量制御手段は、

機関の運転状態に基づいて目標吸入空気量を設定する目 標吸入空気量設定手段と、

前記目標作動ガス量と目標吸入空気量とに基づいて目標 EGR量を設定する目標EGR量設定手段と、を備え、 設定した目標吸入空気量と目標EGR量に基づいて前記 吸気絞り弁及びEGR弁を制御することを特徴とする請 求項1記載の内燃機関の制御装置。

【請求項3】失火を判定する失火判定手段と、

失火が判定されたときに前記目標作動ガス量を低減補正 する作動ガス量補正手段と、を備え、

前記作動ガス量制御手段は、機関の作動ガス量が前記低 減補正された目標作動ガス量となるように前記吸気絞り 弁及びEGR弁を制御することを特徴とする請求項1又 は請求項2記載の内燃機関の制御装置。

【請求項4】前記失火判定手段は、

機関から排出される未燃排気成分量を検出又は推定し、 検出又は推定した未燃排気成分量が所定量を超えたとき 30 に失火と判定することを特徴とする請求項3記載の内燃 機関の制御装置。

【請求項5】前記未燃排気成分量を、吸入空気量、燃料 噴射量及び機関冷却水温度のうち少なくとも1つに基づ いて推定することを特徴とする請求項4記載の内燃機関 の制御装置。

【請求項6】前記吸気絞り弁及びEGR弁の開度を大き くすることにより、空気過剰率一定のまま燃焼室内の作 動ガス量を増加させることを特徴とする請求項1から請 求項5のいずれか1つに記載の内燃機関の制御装置。

【発明の詳細な説明】

[0001]

【発明の属する技術分野】本発明は、内燃機関の制御装 置に関し、特に、吸気絞り弁とEGR弁の制御技術に関 する。

[0002]

【従来の技術】機関の吸気絞り弁とEGR弁とを同時に 制御する技術として、例えば、特開平10-68315 号公報に開示されたものがある。

[0003]

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【発明が解決しようとする課題】ところで、燃焼室内の 作動ガス量(吸入空気量とEGR量の総和)は燃料の着 火性に影響する。ずなわち、図14に示すように、同一 の空気過剰率の場合においては、燃焼室内の作動ガス量 が多いほど圧縮端温度が高くなり燃料の着火性が向上し (実線)、作動ガス量が少なくなると圧縮端温度が低下 して着火性が悪化する(破線)という傾向を有する。

【0004】従って、良好な着火性を確保するために は、燃焼室内の作動ガスを適正な量にする必要がある。 しかしながら、上記従来のものは、吸気絞り弁とEGR 弁の開度変更により生じる燃焼室内の作動ガス量の変化 を考慮していないため、作動ガス量が運転状態に応じた 量よりも少なくなってしまい、着火性が悪化する場合が ある。

【0005】本発明は、上記のような問題を鑑みなされ たものであり、作動ガス量の変化を考慮することにより 燃焼安定性を確保しつつ、吸気絞り弁及びEGR弁を制 御できる内燃機関の制御装置を提供することを目的とす る。

[0006]

【課題を解決するための手段】そのため、請求項1に係 る発明は、機関の吸気通路に設置され、機関に吸入され る吸入空気量を制御可能な吸気絞り弁と、該吸気絞り弁 の下流側吸気通路と排気通路とを連通するEGR通路に 設置され、機関に吸入されるEGR量を制御可能なEG R弁と、機関の運転状態に基づいて燃焼室内の目標作動 ガス量を設定する目標作動ガス量設定手段と、機関の作 動ガス量が、前記目標作動ガス量となるように前記吸気 絞り弁及びEGR弁を制御する作動ガス量制御手段と、 を備えることを特徴とする。

【0007】請求項2に係る発明は、前記作動ガス量制 御手段は、機関の運転状態に基づいて目標吸入空気量を 設定する目標吸入空気量設定手段と、前記目標作動ガス 量と目標吸入空気量に基づいて目標EGR量を設定する 目標EGR量設定手段と、を備え、設定した目標吸入空 気量と目標EGR量とに基づいて前記吸気絞り弁及びE GR弁を制御することを特徴とする。

【0008】請求項3に係る発明は、失火を判定する失 火判定手段と、失火が判定されたときに前記目標作動ガ ス量を低減補正する作動ガス量補正手段と、を備え、前 記作動ガス量制御手段は、機関の作動ガス量が前記低減 補正された目標作動ガス量となるように前記吸気絞り弁 及びEGR弁を制御することを特徴とする。

【0009】請求項4に係る発明は、前記失火判定手段 は、機関から排出される未燃排気成分量を検出又は推定 し、検出又は推定した未燃排気成分量が所定量を超えた ときに失火と判定することを特徴とする。請求項5に係 る発明は、前記未燃排気成分量を、吸入空気量、燃料噴 射量及び機関冷却水温度のうち少なくとも1つに基づい

て推定することを特徴とする。

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【0010】請求項6に係る発明は、前記吸気絞り弁及びEGR弁の開度を大きくすることにより、空気過剰率一定のまま作動ガス量を増加させることを特徴とする。

[0011]

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【発明の効果】請求項1に係る発明によれば、機関の運転状態に応じて燃焼室内の目標作動ガス量を設定し、該目標作動ガス量となるように吸気絞り弁及びEGR弁を制御するので、適正量の作動ガスを確保することができ、燃料の着火性を良好に維持することができる。

【0012】なお、前記目標作動ガス量を増大させて設定すれば、同一の空気過剰率の下においても圧縮端温度を高めることができ、燃料の着火性を向上できる。請求項2に係る発明によれば、機関の運転状態に応じて設定された目標吸入空気量と前記目標作動ガス量とに基づき目標EGR量を設定し、設定した目標吸入空気量と目標EGR量に基づいて吸気絞り弁及びEGR弁を制御するので、作動ガス量を確保して燃料の着火性を向上させると共に、作動ガス量のうち不活性ガス(EGR)量の比率が増加しすぎるのを回避して、燃焼速度が低下することも防止できる。

【0013】これにより、燃焼安定性(着火性及び燃焼速度)を良好に確保しつつ、吸気絞り弁及びGR弁を制御することができる。従って、始動直後等の冷機時において、空気過剰率を小さく設定して(低下させて)排気温度を昇温させて排気浄化触媒を活性化させる場合であっても、燃焼不安定や排気エミッションの悪化を招くことなく吸気絞り弁及びEGR弁を制御できる。

【0014】請求項3に係る発明によれば、失火が判定されたときに前記目標作動ガス量の全体を低減補正するので、失火に対する寄与度の高い燃焼速度の低下を防止 30して耐失火性を向上させつつ、作動ガス量の大幅な減少を防止して着火性を良好に維持することができる請求項4に係る発明によれば、失火と相関が強い未燃排気成分量を検出又は推定し、検出又は推定した未燃排気成分量があらかじめ設定した所定値を超えたときに失火と判定するので、失火判定が容易である。

【0015】請求項5に係る発明によれば、未燃排気成分量と吸入空気量、未燃排気成分量と燃料噴射時期及び未燃排気成分量と冷却水温度は、それぞれ一定の関係にあるので、吸入空気量、燃料噴射時期及び冷却水温度の 40 うち少なくとも1つを検出又は計測することで容易に未燃排気成分量を推定できる。

【0016】請求項6に係る発明によれば、吸気絞り弁及びEGR弁双方の開度を大きくすることにより、空気過剰率一定のまま作動ガス量を増加させることができる。すなわち、吸気絞り弁のみの開度を大きくするだけでは、空気過剰率は増大してしまい空気過剰率一定のまま作動ガス量を増加させることは不可能であり、EGR弁のみを大きくするだけでは、EGR量の増加により負圧が減少し、相対的に燃焼室内に吸入される吸入空気量

が減少するので空気過剰率一定のまま作動ガス量を増加させることは不可能である。

【0017】従って、EGR弁の開度を大きくすることにより減少する吸入空気量分を補うように吸気絞り弁の開度も大きくすることで、空気過剰率一定のまま作動ガス量を増加させることができる。

[0018]

【発明の実施の形態】以下、本発明の実施形態を図に基づいて説明する。図1は、過給機付ディーゼルエンジンのシステム図である。図に示すように、エンジン本体1には、コモンレール2、燃料噴射弁3及び図示しない燃料ポンプを構成要素とするコモンレール燃料噴射系が設けられており、高圧の燃料をエンジン本体1に供給する。

【0019】過給機4のコンプレッサ4aは吸気通路5に接続されており、駆動されて圧縮空気をエンジン本体1に供給する。過給機4のタービン4bは排気通路6に接続されており、エンジン本体1からの排気により回転されて前記コンプレッサ4aを駆動する。なお、本実施形態においては、過給機4として可変容量型のものを用いており、低速域においてはタービン4b側に設けられた可変ノズルを絞ってタービン効率を高め、高速域においては前記可変ノズルを開いてタービン容量を拡大させることにより、広い運転領域で高い過給効果を得ることができる。

【0020】吸気通路5には、前記過給機4のコンプレッサ4aの上流側に配設されたエアフローメータ15と、吸気絞り弁7とが設けられている。吸気絞り弁7は、例えば、ステップモータを用いて開度変更が可能な電子制御式のものであり、その開度に応じてエンジン本体1に吸入される吸入空気量を制御する。

【0021】排気通路6には、エンジン本体1と過給機のタービン4bとの間から分岐して吸気通路5に接続するEGR通路8と、該EGR通路8に介装されたEGR弁9と、前記過給機4のタービン4bの下流側に配設された排気浄化装置10が設けられている。前記EGR弁9は、例えば、ステップモータを用いた電子制御式のものであり、その開度に応じて吸気側に還流する排気の量、すなわち、エンジン本体1に吸入されるEGR量を制御する。

【0022】前記排気浄化装置10は、担持した触媒によりエンジン本体1から排出される排気を酸化・還元反応により浄化する。コントロールユニット20は、入力される各種センサからの検出信号に基づいて燃料噴射量Qf、噴射時期ITを設定して前記燃料噴射弁3の駆動を制御すると共に、前記吸気絞り弁7及びEGR弁9の開度制御を行う。

【0023】なお、前記各種センサとしては、エンジン回転速度Neを検出するエンジン回転センサ11、アクセル開度を検出するアクセル開度センサ12、エンジン

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冷却水温度Twを検出する水温センサ13、前記排気浄化装置10の触媒温度を検出する触媒温度センサ14、吸入空気量Qaを検出するエアフローメータ15等がある。

【0024】ところで、前記排気浄化装置10は、その触媒(排気浄化触媒)が所定温度以上とならないと活性化せずに排気を浄化できないため、エンジン始動直後等の冷機時は触媒温度を早期に昇温させる必要がある。そこで、本実施形態では、エンジン始動直後において、空気過剰率2(すなわち、シリンダ内に吸入される低温の新気量)を通常の暖機時に設定される空気過剰率よりも小さく設定する(低下させる)ことで、燃焼室内の温度、ひいては、排気温度の昇温を早めて触媒温度の早期活性化を図っている。

【0025】ここで、空気過剰率ルを小さく設定する (低下させる)方法としては、通常の暖機時よりも吸気 絞り弁7を制御することで吸入空気量Qaを減少させる 方法とEGR弁9を制御することでEGR量を増加させ る方法がある。吸気絞り弁7のみにより空気過剰率ルを 小さくすると、燃焼室内の作動ガス量(吸入空気量Qa +EGR量)が運転状態に応じた量よりも減少し、圧縮 端温度が低下するので燃料の着火性が悪化してしまうと いった問題を有する。

【0026】一方、EGR弁9のみにより空気過剰率えを小さくすると、燃焼により温度が上昇したEGR量が多くなるため圧縮端温度も上昇して着火性は維持できるものの、不活性ガスであるEGR量の割合が運転状態に応じた量よりも増大し、燃焼速度が低下してしまうといった問題を有する。従って、燃焼安定性を維持しつつ

(効果的に)排気温度を昇温させるには、燃焼室内の作 30 動ガスの量を確保すると共に、該作動ガス中のEGR量 の割合(EGR率)が大きくなりすぎないようにする必 要がある。

【0027】このため、本実施形態では、エンジン始動 直後において空気過剰率λを低下させることにより排気 温度を上昇させるが、空気過剰率λの低下に伴う吸入空 気量Qaの減少(すなわち、作動ガス量の減少)による 着火性の悪化を補うためにEGR量を増加させて作動ガ ス量を適正に確保する。その際、EGR量の増加による 燃焼速度の低下を抑制するように、吸入空気量QaとE GR量とをバランスさせた作動ガス量(目標作動ガス 量)を設定するようにしている。

【0028】以下、エンジン始動直後における吸気絞り 弁7及びEGR弁9の制御を説明する。図2は、メイン 制御ルーチンを示すフローチャートである。ステップ1 (図ではS1と記す。以下同じ)では、エンジン回転速 度Ne、燃料噴射量Qf、吸入空気量Qaを読み込む。

【0029】ここで、エンジン回転速度Ne及び吸入空気量Qaは、それぞれエンジン回転速度センサ11、エアフローメータ15により検出されたものであり、燃料

噴射量Qfは運転状態に応じて設定されたものである。 ステップ2では、読み込んだエンジン回転速度Neと燃料噴射量Qfとに基づき、例えば図3に示すようなマップを参照して目標空気過剰率 λ tを算出する。

【0030】ここで、前記目標空気過剰率λtは、通常の暖機時においてはエンジン運転状態に応じて最適な値を設定するものであるが、エンジン始動直後の冷機時のように排気温度を昇温させる場合には、該目標空気過剰率λtとして、同一の運転状態において通常の暖機時に設定される値よりも小さい値を設定する(この結果、冷機時において空気過剰率λを低下させることになる)。

【0032】ここで、目標作動ガス量算出用のテーブル (図4)について図5を参照して説明する。前述したように、EGR弁9 (すなわち、EGR量)のみを制御することで空気過剰率 λ を低下させる場合は、EGR量を増加させるので吸入空気量は減少するが作動ガス量の変化は少ない (図5:実線)。

【0033】しかし、EGR弁9のみの制御では設定できる(低下させることができる)空気過剰率λに限界があるので、この限界以上に空気過剰率λを低下させるには吸気絞り弁7の制御も併用する必要がある。すなわち、EGR弁9を全開としたまま、吸気絞り弁7を絞ることで空気過剰率λを低下させる必要がある(図5:破線)。この場合、EGR弁9の制御を主として空気過剰率λを低下させると、不活性ガスであるEGRの割合が増大するので、燃焼速度が遅くなる。

【0034】一方、吸気絞り弁7(すなわち、吸入空気量Qa)のみを制御することによって空気過剰率λを低下させると作動ガス量が減少してしまうため、圧縮端温度が低下して燃料の着火性が悪化する(図5:一点鎖線)。このように空気過剰率入を低下させるために吸気絞りを行うと着火性が悪化する傾向を示し、EGRを行うと燃焼速度が遅くなる傾向を有するため、特に、低温時に空気過剰率入を低下させる(すなわち、排気温度を昇温させる)場合には、吸気絞り弁7とEGR弁9の開度設定をバランスさせることで、作動ガス量及び作動ガスに占めるEGR量(比率)を適正に確保して、燃焼不安定な状態を回避する必要がある。

【0035】図4のテーブルは、この点を考慮して設定されたものであり、空気過剰率λに応じて(EGR率を考慮した)最適な目標作動ガス量を算出するものである。図2のフローチャートに戻って、ステップ4では未燃排気成分量を予測する。ステップ5では、予測した未燃排気成分量に基づき前記目標作動ガス量の低減補正を

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実行する。

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【0036】ステップ6では、補正後の目標作動ガス量に基づき目標吸気絞り弁開度を算出する。ステップ7では、補正後の目標作動ガス量に基づき目標EGR弁開度を算出する。ステップ8では、吸気絞り弁7及びEGR弁9の開度制御を実行する。

【0037】具体的には、ステップ6で算出した目標吸気絞り弁開度となるように吸気絞り弁7の開度を制御し、ステップ7で算出した目標EGR弁開度となるようにEGR弁9の開度を制御する。このようにすれば、燃 10 焼安定性を確保しつつ、吸気絞り弁7及びEGR弁9を制御することが可能となる。

【0038】なお、上記フローチャートでは、シリンダ内に流入するガス量を代表する値として目標作動ガス量を用いているが、該目標作動ガスに代えて目標体積効率を用いるようにしてもよい。この場合、エンジン運転状態に応じて目標体積効率を算出し、算出した目標体積効率に基づき吸気絞り弁7及びEGR弁9を制御することになる。

【0039】次に、前記メイン制御ルーチン(図2)の各ステップで行われる制御について説明する。図6は、前記メイン制御ルーチン(図2)のステップ4で行われる未燃排気成分量の予測演算処理を示すフローチャートである。ステップ11では、吸入空気量Qa,燃料噴射量Qf、燃料噴射時期IT、エンジン冷却水温度Twを読み込む。

【0040】ステップ12では、未燃排気成分量を予測する。具体的には、未燃排気成分量と空気過剰率λ(∝吸入空気量Qa/燃料噴射量Qf)、燃料噴射時期IT(ATDC)、冷却水温度Twとは、それぞれ図7~図 309に示すような関係にあることが判っているので、これらのテーブルに基づく所定の演算処理を実行することで未燃排気成分量を予測する。

【0041】図10は、前記メイン制御ルーチン(図2)のステップ5で行われる目標作動ガス量の低減補正処理を示すフローチャートである。ステップ21では、図2のステップ4で算出した未燃排気成分予測値を検出する。ステップ22では、検出した未燃排気成分量予測値と所定値を比較する。

【0042】この所定値は、例えば失火に至ったとき (又は失火直前)に、エンジンから排出される未燃成分量を示す値として設定されたものであり、あらかじめ実験等により求めたものである。前記予測値が所定値よりも大きい場合は、失火と判定してステップ23に進み、図2のステップ3で算出した目標作動ガス量を低減補正する。

【0043】すなわち、失火が判定された場合には、燃焼室内の燃焼速度の低下を改善する必要があるため、EGR量を減少させる必要がある。しかし、単にEGR量のみを減少させると今度は作動ガス量が大きく減少して 50

しまい燃料の着火性の悪化を招くことになる。従って、 燃焼安定性が考慮された前記目標作動ガス量を(全体と

して)低減補正することで、着火性の悪化を最小限に抑えつつ、不活性ガスであるEGR量を低減させて燃焼速度の低下を改善する。

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【0044】これにより、耐失火性を向上させることができる。前記予測値が所定値以下の場合は、目標作動ガス量の補正を実行せず、そのまま本制御を終了する。なお、前記目標作動ガス量の低減補正の方法としては、前記予測値が所定値よりも大きい場合に目標作動ガス量を一律に所定量低減するようにしてもよいが、前記予測値と所定値との差が大きくなるほど低減する量を多くするようにしてもよい。このようにすれば、失火レベルに対応した制御が可能となる。

【0045】図11は、前記メイン制御ルーチン(図 2)のステップ6及びステップ7で行われる目標吸気絞り弁7開度及びEGR弁9開度の算出を示すフローチャートである。ステップ31では、図2のステップ2で算出した目標空気過剰率 λ t、運転状態に応じて設定された燃料噴射量Qf及び図2のステップ5で算出した(補正後の)目標作動ガス量を読み込む。

【0046】ステップ32では、目標吸入空気量Qtを 算出する。具体的には、下式に示すように、目標空気過 剰率λtに理論空燃比(14.6)及び燃料噴射量Qf を乗算して目標吸入空気量Qtを算出する。目標吸入空 気量Qt=目標空気過剰率λt×14.6×燃料噴射量 Qfステップ33では、目標EGR量を算出する。

【0047】具体的には、下式に示すように、(補正後の)目標作動ガス量から前記目標吸入空気量Qtを減算して目標EGR量を算出する。目標EGR量=目標作動ガス量—目標吸入空気量Qtステップ34では、算出した目標吸入空気量と目標EGR量に基づいて、例えば図12に示すようなテーブルを検索して目標吸気絞り弁開度を算出する。

【0048】ステップ35では、算出した目標吸入空気量と目標EGR量に基づいて、例えば図13に示すようなテーブルを検索して目標EGR弁開度を算出する。以上説明したように、始動直後の低温時において、目標空気過剰率えたとして同一運転状態において通常の暖機時よりも小さい空気過剰率を設定することで排気温度を昇温させと共に、作動ガス量を適正に確保しつつ、吸入空気量QaとEGR量とのバランスを考慮して吸気絞り弁7及びEGR弁9の開度設定を行うので、燃焼安定性を確保しつつ、排気浄化触媒の早期活性化が図れる。

【0049】なお、排気浄化触媒の活性化終了後は、上述したように目標作動ガス量を設定することなく(すなわち、目標作動ガス量にかかわらず)、例えばエンジン運転状態に基づいて目標吸入空気量Qtと目標EGR率を設定し、吸気絞り弁7とEGR弁9をそれぞれ制御するようにしてもよい。また、上記フローチャートでは、

目標空気過剰率 λ t の下で吸入空気量 Q a と E G R 量とがバランスされた目標作動ガス量となるように吸気絞り 弁 7 及び E G R 弁 9 を制御しているが、空気過剰率 λ を一定としたまま、燃焼室内の作動ガス量をより多く設定することもできる。

【0050】この場合は、図4に示すマップを基に設定された吸気絞り弁7及びEGR弁9それぞれの開度に対して、吸気絞り弁7及びEGR弁の双方を更に開く方向に制御すればよい。

【図面の簡単な説明】

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【図1】本発明の実施形態に係るシステム図。

【図2】同じくメイン制御ルーチンを示すフローチャート。

【図3】同じく目標空気過剰率 λ t 算出用マップの 1 例を示す図。

【図4】同じく目標作動ガス量算出用テーブルの1例を示す図。

【図5】同じく吸気絞り弁又はEGR弁の制御に伴う空 気過剰率と作動ガス量の関係を示す図。

【図6】同じく未燃排気成分量の予測演算処理ルーチン 20 を示すフローチャート。

【図7】同じく空気過剰率 λ と未燃排気成分量との関係を示す図。

【図8】同じく燃料噴射時期 I Tと未燃排気成分量との 関係を示す図。 【図9】同じく冷却水温度Twと未燃排気成分量との関係を示す図。

【図10】同じく目標作動ガス量の低減補正処理ルーチンを示すフローチャート。

【図11】同じく目標吸気絞り弁及びEGR弁開度の演 算処理ルーチンを示すフローチャート。

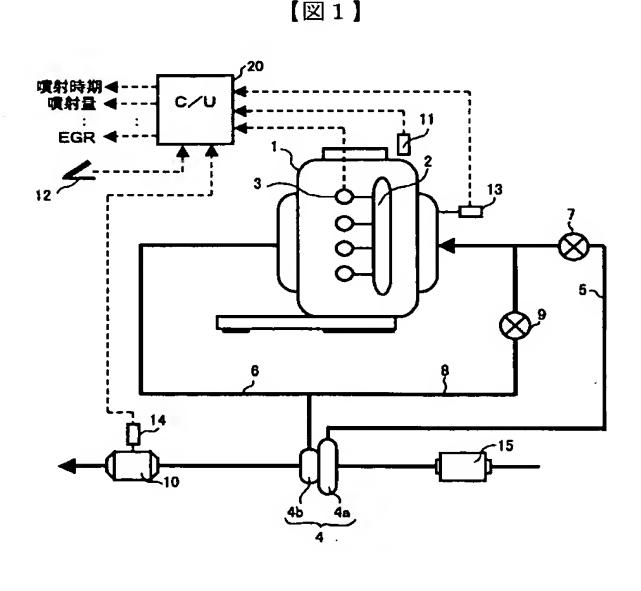
【図12】同じく目標吸気絞り弁開度算出用テーブルの 1例を示す図。

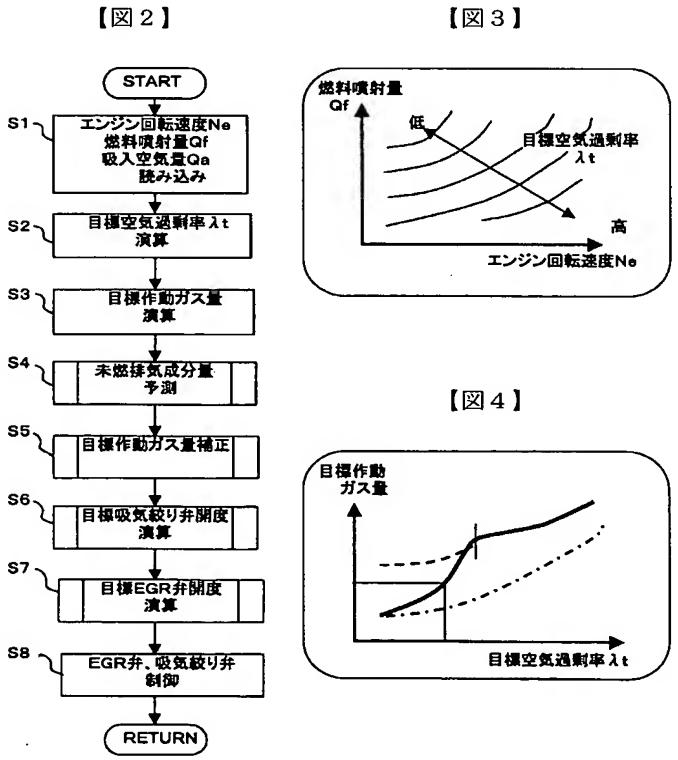
【図13】同じく目標EGR弁開度算出用テーブルの1 10 例を示す図。

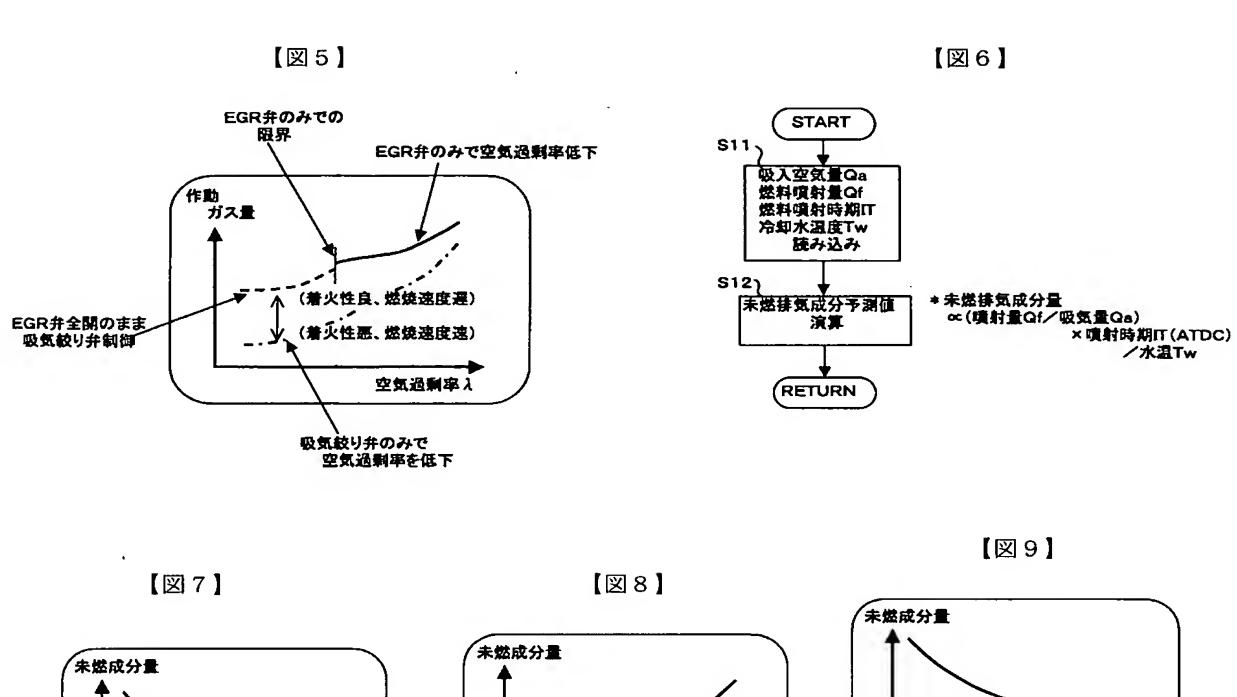
【図14】作動ガス量と筒内圧力、熱発生率の関係を示す図。

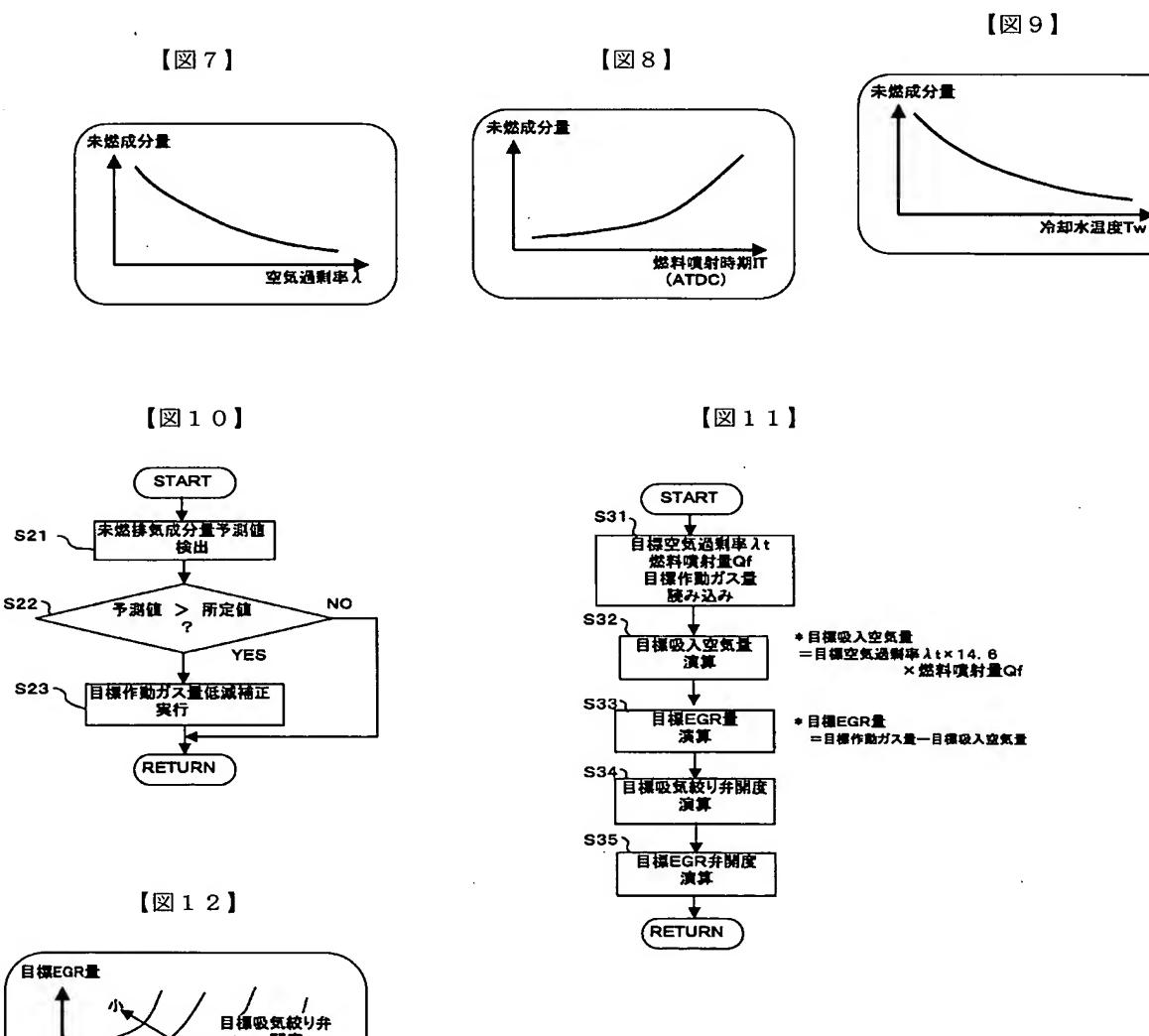
【符号の説明】

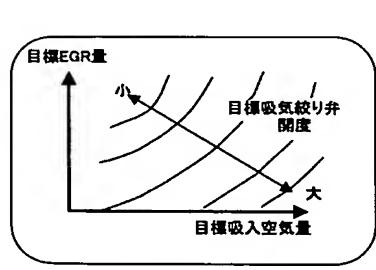
- 1 エンジン本体
- 2 コモンレール
- 3 燃料噴射弁
- 5 吸気通路
- 6 排気通路
- 7 吸気絞り弁
- 8 EGR通路
- 9 EGR弁
 - 10 排気浄化装置
 - 20 コントロールユニット (C/U)



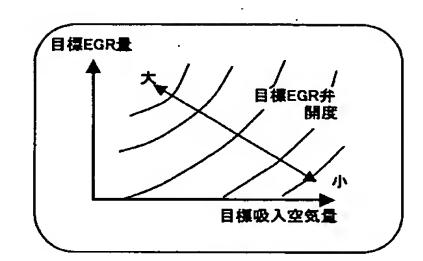


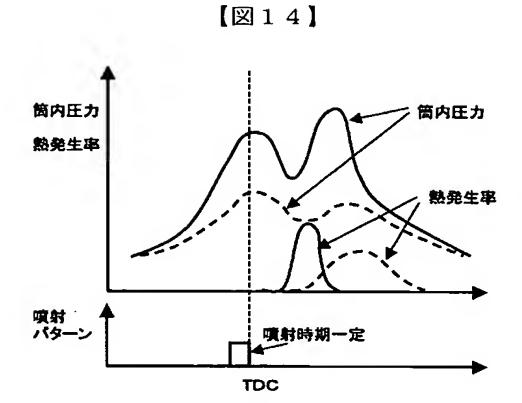






【図13】





フロントページの続き

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